

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2225

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2008

UTILISATION OF FUNDS UNDER SECTOR REFORMS PROJECT

Paswan Shri Ramchandra

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the funds provided by the Union Government for drinking water schemes under the Sector Reforms Project have been fully utilized by the State Governments till 2007;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the targets fixed and achieved under the project, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to withdraw the scheme from the districts which failed to implement the scheme; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU)

(a) & (b): Water is a state subject and the State Governments are responsible for ensuring potable drinking water supply. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under the centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). In 1999, sector reforms in drinking water sector were introduced as decentralized, community-managed and demand-driven Sector Reform Projects on pilot basis in 67 districts out of 27 States. In 2002, the reforms were upscaled as Swajaldhara in the entire country and Sector Reform Projects in those districts were subsumed in Swajaldhara programme. Since it was a demand-driven community-managed programme, no targets were fixed. In view of the recommendations made in the annual State Ministers' Conference held in January, 2006, since 2007-08, the quantum of funds to be utilized on schemes to be implemented on Swajaldhara principles and also the quantum of community contribution for the same, have been left to the discretion of the States.

(c) & (d) Does not arise.